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EXAMINER	
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3761	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/525,764	TSUTSUI, KATSUSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PAULA L. CRAIG	3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 January 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The objections to Claims 8-14 are withdrawn in light of Applicant's amendment filed January 14, 2008. For Claim 4, Applicant's arguments filed January 14, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. For Claims 1-3 and 5-19, Applicant's arguments filed January 14, 2008 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

2. Applicant argues that Mizutani '822 fails to teach a resilient body which is fixed to the absorbent. Applicant argues that Mizutani '822 is silent with respect to how or where the absorbent core 4 is attached or situated with respect to the remainder of the napkin, but that it appears from the drawings of Mizutani '822, especially Fig. 2, that the topsheet 2 and elastic member 6 can move with respect to the absorbent core 4. However, Fig. 3 of Mizutani shows elastic members 6 between upper core 16 and lower core 17. The dotted lines of Fig. 3 show that even under tension, the elastic members 6 remain in close contact with upper core 16 (col. 3, lines 9-16; note that the elastic members 6 are fully capable of being held in place by friction against upper core 16). The term "fixed" requires no more than this. In addition, Mizutani teaches that elastic members 6 are bonded to topsheet 2 and/or backsheet 3 by adhesive agent 8 (col. 2, lines 6-24, col. 3, lines 4-8). The topsheet 2 and backsheet 3 are in turn bonded to each other at their periphery, with the absorbent bonded between them (Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 8-24, Claim 1). Mizutani also teaches that the topsheet 2, backsheet 3, and

absorbent are compressed together to form a pair of grooves 11 (Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 25-28). Claim 1 of Mizutani teaches that the topsheet, backsheet, and absorbent core are not easily separable from one another. The elastic members 6 are therefore fixed to the absorbent at least through topsheet 2 and backsheet 3 in all the embodiments of Mizutani (Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 8-24, Claim 1). Applicant's Claim 4 does not require that the resilient body is directly adhered to the absorbent.

3. Applicant argues that Mizutani '822 fails to teach slits extending through the entire thickness of the absorbent. However, the slits disclosed by Mizutani '822 appear to correspond closely to the slits taught by Applicant as suitable for the invention, such as slits 46 shown in Fig. 4 of the specification, which do not extend through all the layers of the product (see specification, paragraph 65; note slit 46 does not extend through tissue 34). Mizutani teaches slits which extend through the entire thickness of upper core 16 (slits are grooves 11, Fig. 3). Claim 4 does not require that the product may not include other layers between the back sheet and the surface material.

4. Applicant argues that Drevik '450 fails to teach a resilient body which is fixed to the absorbent. The resilient body of Drevik includes hump-forming element 24 and elastic means 16 (Abstract, Figs. 3, 5, and 7-10, paragraphs 82 and 85-88). Drevik teaches elastic means 16 being attached to the outer layer and connected to the outer layer and/or other layers of the product (paragraph 82). The outer layer 5 and inner layer 4 are attached to each other and fix the absorbent in place (Figs. 1-10, paragraph 56). The resilient body of Drevik is therefore fixed to the absorbent, either directly or through other layers.

5. Applicant also argues that modification of Mizutani '822 with Drevik '450 would destroy the intended purpose of the sanitary napkin of Mizutani '822, in that offsetting the elastic member 6 would require totally reconfiguring the napkin, and would likely result in the core being pulled and bunched up at one end, resulting in an inoperable napkin. However, as the topsheet, backsheet, and absorbent core of Mizutani are attached to one another along the length of groove 11, the attachment of the elastic member 6 could be varied without bunching up the entire napkin enough to make it inoperable (Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 25-28, Claim 1). At least some bunching up, in the form of longitudinal contraction of the napkin, is exactly what Mizutani '822 is trying to achieve (Abstract, col. 1, lines 25-54). In addition, the claim does not specify the amount of offset. Placing the elastic member 6 of Mizutani slightly further from the perimeter at one end would not require totally reconfiguring the napkin, and might even fall within normal manufacturing variations. As the contours of a woman's body are not symmetrical from front to rear, an offset would be likely to provide better fit, as taught by Drevik (Abstract, Figs. 3, 5, and 7-10, paragraphs 27-28, 59-63, 82 and 85-88).

6. Applicant argues that a purpose for the offset is disclosed in paragraphs 5 and 8 of the specification. However, there is no indication in paragraphs 5 and 8 that either of them refers only to products including an offset.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. The rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mizutani (US 6,410,822) is maintained for the reasons of record.

9. For Claim 4, Mizutani '822 teaches an absorptive product that is elongate in a longitudinal direction and has a surface side configured for contact with a body (Abstract, Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 6-13). Mizutani '822 teaches a back sheet which has a shape elongated in one direction and prevents the permeation of liquid (backsheet 3, Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 9-16). A liquid permeable surface material is arranged on the surface side configured for contact with a body (surface material is topsheet 2, Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 9-16). An absorbent is arranged between the back sheet and the surface material and is capable of absorbing and holding a liquid which permeates the surface material (absorbent is upper core 16, Figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 9-18). Mizutani '822 teaches a resilient body which is fixed at least to the absorbent in a center region in a lateral direction of the product and imparts a contracting force to the absorbent with respect to the longitudinal direction (resilient body is elastic members 6, Figs. 1-3, col. 2, line 9 to col. 3, line 20). Slits are formed in the absorbent in a region on which the contracting force of the resilient body acts, the slits extending through the entire thickness of the absorbent (slits are grooves 11; absorbent is upper core 16; Figs. 1 and 3, col. 2, line 9 to col. 3, line 54). Mizutani '822 teaches the slits being formed adjacent both sides of the resilient body such that a first slit is formed on a first side of the resilient body and a second slit is formed on an opposite side of the resilient body; the first slit has a center portion thereof in the longitudinal direction thereof arranged close

to the second slit, and other portions thereof gradually parted away from the second slit (slits are grooves 11, Figs. 1-3, col. 2, line 9 to col. 3, line 54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. Claims 1-3, 5-15, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,591,150 to Olsen et al.

11. For Claim 1, Olsen teaches an absorptive product that is elongate in a longitudinal direction and has a surface side configured for contact with a body (Abstract, Figs. 1-26, col. 1, lines 38-55, col. 5, lines 28-67). A back sheet 40 has a shape elongated in one direction and prevents the permeation of liquid (Figs. 1-26, col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 53, col. 9, lines 27-54, col. 19, lines 26-53). A liquid permeable surface material 38 is arranged on the surface side configured for contact with a body (Figs. 1-26, col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 53, col. 6, line 62 to col. 8, line 22, col. 19, lines 26-53). Olsen teaches an absorbent 42 which is arranged between the back sheet and the surface material and is capable of absorbing and holding a liquid which permeates the surface material (Figs. 1-26, col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 53, col. 8, line 23 to col. 9, line 54). A resilient body is fixed at least to the absorbent 42 in a center region in a lateral direction of the product; the resilient body is fully capable of imparting a contracting force to the absorbent with respect to the longitudinal direction (resilient body includes the center portions of resilient insert 44 and of selective stiffener 82, Figs. 1-26, col. 6, lines 43-53, col. 9, line 55 to col. 22, line 59, col. 23, lines 13-29; note that resilient bodies produce contracting forces under various conditions of use, such as

elastic recovery after stretching). Slits are formed in the absorbent in a region on which the contracting force of the resilient body acts, the slits in the absorbent extending substantially co-extensively with and adjacent to the resilient body (slits include lateral side arcuate portions 52 and 54, compression lines 80B, intermediate lines of weakness 130C, and the unstiffened regions 86 located toward each side edge of the article; Figs. 1-26, col. 10, line 1 to col. 11, line 17, col. 20, line 35 to col. 22, line 59). Olsen teaches that a deformed portion is located in both the absorbent and the resilient body, the deformed portion being a substantially V-shaped portion of the absorbent and the resilient body as viewed in the longitudinal direction (deformed portion includes central arcuate portion 50; compression line 80A; and the unstiffened region 86 and the two stiffened regions 84 located furthest from the side edges of the article; Figs. 1-26, col. 10, line 1 to col. 11, line 27, col. 12, line 42 to col. 14, line 58, col. 20, line 5 to col. 22, line 59). The resilient body of Olsen is longer than it is wide, which suggests that it is at least as resilient in the longitudinal direction as in the transverse direction (resilient body includes the center portions of resilient insert 44 and of selective stiffener 82, Figs. 1-26, col. 6, lines 43-53, col. 9, line 55 to col. 22, line 59; note col. 12, lines 42-63). This suggests that the resilient body of Olsen would produce at least as much contracting force to the absorbent after stretching in the longitudinal direction as after stretching in the transverse direction (resilient body includes the central portions of resilient insert 44 and of selective stiffener 82, Figs. 1-26, col. 6, lines 43-53, col. 9, line 55 to col. 22, line 59). Olsen teaches that the resilient body is intended to enter the crack between the buttocks, which suggests at least some contracting force in the longitudinal direction

(Figs. 10-12, col. 4, lines 18-27, col. 14, lines 7-41). Olsen does not expressly teach the resilient body imparting the contracting force to the absorbent mainly along the longitudinal direction of the product. In light of Olsen's teaching that the resilient body is longer than it is wide, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the resilient body so that it is arranged to impart the contracting force to the absorbent mainly along the longitudinal direction of the product, under at least some conditions of use.

12. For Claim 8, Olsen teaches an absorptive product that is elongate in a longitudinal direction and has a surface side configured for contact with a body (Abstract, Figs. 1-26, col. 1, lines 38-55, col. 5, lines 28-67). A back sheet 40 has a shape elongated in one direction and prevents the permeation of liquid (Figs. 1-26, col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 53, col. 9, lines 27-54, col. 19, lines 26-53). A liquid permeable surface material 38 is arranged on the surface side configured for contact with a body (Figs. 1-26, col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 53, col. 6, line 62 to col. 8, line 22, col. 19, lines 26-53). Olsen teaches an absorbent 42 which is arranged between the back sheet and the surface material and is capable of absorbing and holding a liquid which permeates the surface material (Figs. 1-26, col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 53, col. 8, line 23 to col. 9, line 54). A resilient body is fixed at least to the absorbent 42 in a center region in a lateral direction of the product; the resilient body is fully capable of imparting a contracting force to the absorbent with respect to the longitudinal direction (resilient body includes the central portions of resilient insert 44 and of selective stiffener 82, Figs. 1-26, col. 6, lines 43-53, col. 9, line 55 to col. 22, line 59, col. 23, lines 13-29; note

that resilient bodies produce contracting forces under various conditions of use, such as elastic recovery after stretching). Olsen teaches that the resilient body may have projections on one end which are not present on the other, which suggests that the resilient body may extend further toward one end of the product (col. 11, lines 28-62). Slits are formed in the absorbent in a region on which the contracting force of the resilient body acts, the slits in the absorbent extending substantially co-extensively with and adjacent to the resilient body (slits include lateral side arcuate portions 52 and 54, compression lines 80B, intermediate lines of weakness 130C, and the unstiffened regions 86 located toward each side edge of the article; Figs. 1-26, col. 10, line 1 to col. 11, line 17, col. 20, line 35 to col. 22, line 59). Olsen teaches that a deformed portion is located in both the absorbent and the resilient body, the deformed portion being a substantially V-shaped portion of the absorbent and the resilient body as viewed in the longitudinal direction (deformed portion includes central arcuate portion 50; compression line 80A; and the unstiffened region 86 and the two stiffened regions 84 located furthest from the side edges of the article; Figs. 1-26, col. 10, line 1 to col. 11, line 27, col. 12, line 42 to col. 14, line 58, col. 20, line 5 to col. 22, line 59). Olsen does not expressly teach the resilient body being offset from a center of the absorptive product in the longitudinal direction. In light of Olsen's teaching that the resilient body may have projections on one end which are not present on the other, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the resilient body of Olsen so that it is offset from a center of the absorptive product in the longitudinal direction.

13. For Claim 2, Olsen teaches the resilient body including two laterally spaced sides, and the slits are respectively arranged adjacent each of the laterally spaced sides with respect to the resilient body (slits include lateral side arcuate portions 52 and 54, compression lines 80B, intermediate lines of weakness 130C, and the unstiffened regions 86 located toward each side edge of the article; Figs. 1-26, col. 10, line 1 to col. 11, line 17, col. 20, line 35 to col. 22, line 59).

14. For Claims 3 and 10, Olsen teaches the slits having longitudinal end sides parted away from the resilient body (Figs. 1, 6-8, 10-26, col. 11, lines 17-66, col. 14, lines 7-24, col. 18, lines 12-66; note curved projections 116 in Fig. 13).

15. For Claims 5 and 12, Olsen teaches the resilient body being formed of a film-like resilient body having a given width (col. 12, lines 27-41, col. 16, line 44 to col. 18, line 6, col. 22, lines 2-59). Olsen does not expressly teach a contracting force mainly in the longitudinal direction. It would have been obvious to modify Olsen to include a contracting force mainly in the longitudinal direction, for the same reasons as described above for Claim 1 in paragraph 11.

16. For Claims 6 and 13, Olsen teaches the absorbent being formed by stacking a first absorbent layer having high liquid diffusivity and a second absorbent layer having high liquid holding property (first absorbent layer includes first tissue layer; col. 8, line 61 to col. 9, line 26). The resilient body is fixed to the second absorbent layer (col. 8, line 61 to col. 9, line 26, col. 22, line 60 to col. 23, line 64). The slits are formed in the second absorbent layer (Figs. 1-26, col. 10, line 1 to col. 11, line 17, col. 20, line 35 to col. 22, line 59).

17. For Claims 7 and 14, Olsen teaches a notched portion formed in the first absorbent layer corresponding to a position where the resilient body is formed (col. 8, line 61 to col. 9, line 26, col. 11, line 17 to col. 23, line 64).

18. For Claim 9, Olsen teaches the resilient body including two laterally spaced sides, with the slits respectively arranged adjacent each of the laterally spaced sides with respect to the resilient body (Figs. 1-26, col. 5, line 62 to col. 6, line 53, col. 10, line 1 to col. 11, line 17, col. 20, line 35 to col. 22, line 59). Olsen does not expressly teach the resilient body imparting the contracting force to the absorbent mainly along the longitudinal direction of the product. It would have been obvious to modify Olsen to include the resilient body imparting the contracting force to the absorbent mainly along the longitudinal direction of the product, for the same reasons as described above in paragraph 11 for Claim 1.

19. For Claim 11, Olsen teaches a first slit formed on a first side of the resilient body and a second slit formed on an opposite side of the resilient body, the first slit having a center portion in the longitudinal direction arranged close to the second slit and other portions gradually parted away from the second slit (Figs. 1, 6-8, 10-14, 21A, 22, 23, and 25, col. 14, lines 7-23, col. 18, lines 12-66). Olsen teaches that the first and second slits form barriers to the flow of bodily exudates in the transverse direction, avoiding staining and side soiling (col. 11, lines 6-17). Olsen teaches that the caliper of the resilient insert is preferably less than 1 mm; the total caliper of the product is 3 mm or less; the central arcuate portion 50 has a height of about 10 mm to about 13 mm; the lateral arcuate portions 52 and 54 have a width of about 5 mm to 40 mm and a radius of

curvature of preferably about 3 mm (col. 12, line 27 to col. 13, line 18). These dimensions suggest that the first slit and second slit are deep enough to extend through an entire thickness of the absorbent. Olsen does not expressly teach the first slit and second slit extending through an entire thickness of the absorbent. In light of Olsen's teaching that the first and second slits form barriers to the flow of bodily exudates in the transverse direction, and the dimensions taught for the parts of the product, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Olsen to include the first slit and the second slit extending through an entire thickness of the absorbent.

20. For Claims 15 and 17, Olsen teaches the slits including a plurality of slits located on a first side of a longitudinal axis of the resilient body and a plurality of slits located on a second side of the longitudinal axis of the resilient body, the second side of the longitudinal axis being opposed to the first side of the longitudinal axis (col. 20, line 51 to col. 21, line 9).

21. For Claim 18, Olsen teaches that the resilient body may have projections on one end which are not present on the other, which suggests that the resilient body may extend further toward one end of the product (col. 11, lines 28-62). Olsen does not expressly teach the resilient body being offset from a center of the absorptive product in the longitudinal direction. In light of Olsen's teaching that the resilient body may have projections on one end which are not present on the other, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the resilient body of Olsen so that it is offset from a center of the absorptive product in the longitudinal direction.

22. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizutani '822 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,397,316 to LaVon et al.

23. For Claim 16, Mizutani '822 teaches all the limitations of Claim 4, as described above in paragraph 9. Mizutani '822 teaches slits located on the first side of a longitudinal axis of the resilient body and on a second side of the longitudinal axis of the resilient body, the second side of the longitudinal axis being opposed to the first side of the longitudinal axis. Mizutani '822 does not teach the slits including a plurality of slits located on each of the first and second sides of the longitudinal axis. However, multiple slits are well known in the art. LaVon confirms this and teaches an absorptive product with a plurality of slits located on each side of the longitudinal axis (Abstract, Figs. 4-18, col. 17, line 30 to col. 19, line 34). LaVon teaches that multiple slits provide improved flexibility, increase the effective surface area, increase the acquisition rate for fluids, and permit the absorbent member to respond dynamically to various fluid loading conditions (col. 18, line 62 to col. 20, line 44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mizutani '822 to include a plurality of slits located on each of the first and second sides of the longitudinal axis, as taught by LaVon, to improve flexibility, increase effective surface area, increase acquisition rate, and permit dynamic response to various fluid loading conditions, as taught by LaVon.

24. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizutani '822 in view of Drevik (US 2002/0156450).

25. For Claim 19, Mizutani '822 teaches all the limitations of Claim 4, as described above in paragraph 9. Mizutani '822 does not teach the resilient body being offset in the longitudinal direction. Applicant's specification does not disclose that an offset serves any stated purpose or solves any particular problem. In addition, resilient members which are offset to some extent from a center of an absorptive product in the longitudinal direction are well known in the art. Drevik confirms this and teaches an absorptive product having a resilient body which imparts a contracting force to the absorbent with respect to the longitudinal direction, and which is offset from the center of the absorptive product in the longitudinal direction (hump-forming element 24 and elastic means 16, Figs. 3, 5, and 7-10, Abstract, paragraphs 82 and 85-88). Drevik teaches the resilient body conforming to the contours of the body (Figs. 3, 5, and 7-10, Abstract, paragraphs 82 and 85-88). Drevik also has a slit formed in the absorbent in a region on which the contracting force of the resilient body acts (absorbent is stiffening/absorbent element 6; slit is cutout 13 between legs 14 and 15; Figs. 1, 3, 5, and 7-10 and paragraphs 64, 66, 100, 106, 109, 116). The slit of Drevik extends substantially co-extensively with and adjacent to the resilient body such that a V-shaped deformed portion is created (Fig. 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mizutani to include an offset, as taught by Drevik, to conform to the contours of the body, as taught by Drevik.

Conclusion

26. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAULA L. CRAIG whose telephone number is (571)272-5964. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Paula L Craig
Examiner
Art Unit 3761

/P. L. C./

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